

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Final Office Action mailed August 10, 2007. Claims 1-12, 15, 23, 34, and 37-39 are cancelled, claims 28-33 and 40-43 are amended, and new claims 44-46 are added. Claims 13, 14, 16-22, 24-33, 35, 36, and 40-46 are now pending in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

I. Examiner's Interview

Applicant's express their appreciation to the Examiner for conducting a brief telephone interview with the Applicant on October 17, 2007.

II. Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner's allowance of claims 13, 14, 16-22, 24-27, 35, and 36 is appreciated. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review and allowance of those claims.

The Applicant's submit the following comments concerning the Examiner's statements of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the claimed invention of claims 13, 14, 16-22, 24-27, 35, and 36 is patentable over the prior art, but respectfully disagrees with the Examiners statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in Office Action. Applicant submits that it is the claim as a whole, rather than any particular limitation, that makes each of the claims allowable. No single

limitation should be construed as the reason for allowance of a claim because it is each of the elements of the claim that makes it allowable. Therefore, Applicant's do not concede that the reasons for allowable subject matter given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make, or would make, the claims allowable and do not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner's statement in the Office Action.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8, 10, 12, 28-34, and 37-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Gregory* (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,848) in view of *Flickinger et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,382).

Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 34, 37-39 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of those claims is moot. Claims 28-33 and 40-43 have been amended to depend from one of claims 13, 16, or 20. Claims 13, 16, and 20 have been allowed. If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, claims 28-33 and 40-43 are believed to be allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 13, 16, or 20.

III. NEW CLAIMS

Claims 44-46 have been added and depend from claim 16. Claim 16 has been allowed. Therefore, claims 44-46 are believed to be allowable at least for the same reason as claim 16.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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